

sure, (which they own) themselves. This is nothing very extraordinary compared with the fact, that Mr. J. Duncan has ever since been master of this ship, and three most successful years spent in the intricate and dangerous navigation of the Baltic, have fully proved his entire competence for this responsible post. This instance shows what industry and perseverance can accomplish, and presents the rare instance of a case in which one individual thoroughly understands two distinct callings: from this example we are at once led to conclude, that if a person who has been brought up a shipbuilder, can, with much energy of mind, make himself competent for the command of a ship, why cannot a person who has been educated and brought up for a shipmaster, qualify himself to thoroughly understand at least the art of repairing a ship. No doubt he might, by paying a certain sum, obtain admission into a builder's yard, till he had a general knowledge of the science of shipbuilding. Trusting that you will excuse the imperfections of this letter, and publish it as soon as convenient,

I am, &c.

Hull, 14th March, 1841.

THOMAS HODGSON.

[The suggestions of our Correspondent are well worthy of attention. We have some doubts about salt water and red coats agreeing well together; but fully approve of the *principle*, and the good effects of such a plan generally. With regard to the master of a ship being a shipbuilder, no one can doubt for a moment the importance of such a measure. The Prussian government already adopt the plan, as will be seen in our volume for 1838. The advantages our Correspondent has already touched on. But how much more besides this does not our own mercantile marine, that of the first maritime country in the whole world, and the most numerous commercial fleet, how much more, we say, does not this require in the way of sound wholesome regulation?—Ed.]

MEMORIAL OF MRS. HEWETT.

To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City, of London, in common council assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION of *Alexander Watt Robe*, Major of Royal Engineers and of the several other persons whose names are hereunto subscribed, *in behalf of the widow and children of the late Captain Hewett, of her Majesty's ship Fairy*, foundered at sea in November last.

And also, the humble petition of *Phipps Hornby*, captain in the Royal Navy, and of the several other persons whose names are hereunto subscribed, *in behalf of the widows and families of the Purser, Petty Officers, Seamen, and Marines, forming the crew of the said vessel*, who all perished by the same melancholy catastrophe.

Sheweth,—That her Majesty's ship *Fairy*, (of which the late Captain Hewett was commander,) was engaged in the service of this country, more particularly in surveying the coasts of these Kingdoms, and the north and other seas surrounding the same, and in accurately laying down in charts and plans, the shoals and quicksands, and sunken rocks, which endangered the safety of ships and vessels of all descriptions.

That a great portion of Captain Hewett's valuable life, (namely, for about twenty-five years,) had been engaged in endeavouring, both on these and

ENLARGED SERIES.—NO. 6.—VOL. FOR 1841.

3 I

foreign shores, to bring to perfection the said important surveys; and he was, moreover, of strictly unimpeachable character in life and conduct.

That in the prosecution of such honorable and laborious, but perilous calling her Majesty's ship, *Fairy*, was encountered by a dreadful storm off Lowestoffe, or Southwold, on the coast of Suffolk, on the 13th day of November last, when the said vessel, with its gallant and most meritorious commander and the purser, and the whole of the petty officers, seamen, and marines forming its crew, foundered, and every individual on board perished.

That the bereaved widow of the late Captain Hewett, has not only to lament the loss by that afflicting event of her most estimable and affectionate husband, but also of that of her eldest son who was a midshipman, and her brother who was master; and, at the same time, second in command on board the said ship *Fairy*, thus sustaining a triple loss—which can never be repaired this side the grave, but may under Providence be ameliorated by the generous sympathies of her countrymen—the British public.

That by the afore-mentioned fatal event, the widow of Captain Hewett has been left with eight children, six boys and two girls, with the limited provision hereafter referred to, and such further provision as may be derived from the sources of the naval department of the government of this country, and the spontaneous feelings of other public bodies, and of individuals comprising merchant traders and others.

That the spirit of British Philanthropy, and also that of gratitude for past services has already been manifested in behalf of the bereaved Widow and children of Captain Hewett—the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having been pleased to grant a pension to the widow of Captain Hewett of £100 per annum, (being £10 more per annum than the regulated provision for an officer of his rank,) and £16 pounds per annum for the benefit of each of the children until they are severally provided for; and the elder Brethren of the Trinity House, have contributed in the name of their Corporation, the sum of £100 for their benefit; and also the further sum of £100 for the like purpose, from the private fund of the Elder Brethren, [the copy extract of letter accompanying those contributions from the secretary of that Corporation is included in the printed statement appended hereto, as conveying most honorable testimony of the merits and services of the late Captain Hewett] and the Committee of Lloyd's sensible of the valuable services of the late Captain Hewett, to the maritime interests of the country, have also most liberally contributed to the like purpose.

That, by the before-mentioned calamitous event, seventeen widows, two mothers entirely dependent on their sons, and upwards of thirty children of the purser, petty officers, seamen, and marines of the said ship *Fairy*, have not only been bereaved of their respective husbands and fathers and sons, but have been left entirely destitute of support, except what may be derived from her Majesty's government, and the generous contributions of public bodies and of philanthropic individuals, but your petitioners, Captain Hornby and others, acting on behalf of the families of the said crew, have the pleasure to state that the appeal made on their behalf has hitherto been nobly responded to by her most gracious Majesty the Queen, who has subscribed £100; and also by her Majesty Queen Adelaide, the like munificent amount; and likewise by several public bodies and other generous contributors; and such last mentioned petitioners confidently trust, that the force of such appeal will meet with the benevolent aid of your Honorable Corporation, to ameliorate in some degree the poignancy of grief of the families of the deceased.

That the exertions and labors of the late Capt. Hewett were in the course of his most useful life, not only devoted to the surveying of the most dangerous parts of the coasts of Great Britain, but to those of various other parts of the world, for a more particular and just allusion to which a copy of Capt. Basil Hall's most powerful appeal is included in the said printed statement appended to this Petition, and to which the particular attention of Your Honorable Court, is earnestly and respectfully entreated, as in the opinion of your Petitioners, it

not only contains an unvarnished statement of affecting truth, shewing the eminent claims of the late lamented officer, Capt. Hewett, upon every branch of the maritime interests of this country, but it also conveys in more eloquent and heart-stirring language the grounds of those claims more forcibly and appropriately than your petitioners can venture to hope by any language of their own to accomplish.

That the children left by the late lamented Capt. Hewett are as follows:—
1 Frederick Stafford Hewett, aged 14 years. 2 Henry Skyring Hewett, aged 12 years. 3 James Hewett, aged 9 years. 4 Charles Hewett, aged 7 years. 5 George Babb Hewett, aged 6 years. 6 Alfred John Philip Hewett, aged 9 months. Also two girls, 7 Anne Hewett, aged 16 years, and 8 Elizabeth Hewett, aged 6 years.

That in the dreadful catastrophe in which Capt. Hewett's most useful career on earth was ended he had with him in his ill-fated ship the sum of £50 in cash, his watch, and valuable collection of instruments, all his wearing apparel, and one half of his silver plate; and the large expenses of his family prevented him from laying by a fund adequate to the respectable station which his family had filled by his laborious exertions, so that his afflicted widow upon administering to his effects will not be able to realize from that source more than from £60 to £70 per annum, for the maintenance of herself and eight children, unless they are otherwise provided for by a generous public.

That your petitioners cannot for one moment doubt from the high example which your Honourable Corporation has at all times set for the relief of the widows and orphans, of those who have fallen in the service of their country, (in cases so peculiarly calling for its generous sympathies, as those now submitted to its notice,) it will as Britons, as christians, and as men, embracing the municipal superintendence of the rights and revenues of the first Corporation in the world, and representing interests identified with its civic privileges, which have ever supported the honour and welfare of her Majesty's fleets and armies, extend a fostering hand for the relief not only of the widow and children of an eminently distinguished officer of the crown, and of this great commercial and maritime kingdom, (Captain Hewett;) but also for the relief of the widows and families of the Purser, Petty Officers, Seamen, and Marines, forming the crew who perished at the same time as their gallant commander. Two subscriptions having been commenced, one for those specific objects, and separate trustees, (as noticed in the printed statement,) appointed for the receipt and proper application of the sums subscribed, for the respective parties for which they are benevolently designed.

Your Petitioners therefore, most humbly pray that your Honourable Corporation will be pleased to contribute such a sum, as in your wisdom may seem meet, in aid of the fund now raising for the benefit of the widow and children of the late Captain Hewett, and also such a sum as in your like wisdom may seem meet, in aid of the fund now raising for the benefit of the widows and families of the Purser, Petty Officers, Seamen, and Marines, of her Majesty's ship *Fairy*, who perished by the same melancholy catastrophe before-mentioned.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

A. W. Robe, Major, Royal Engineers, Tower; M. Clarke, 6, Sussex-pl. Regent's-pk.; J. H. Pelly, Bart., Deputy Master, Trinity House; E. Drew, Elder Brother, Trinity House; J. H. Ebrington, Major of the Tower of London; Northampton, President Royal Society; J. W. Lubbock, Bart., Treas., Roy. Soc.; J. F. W. Herschel, Pres. R. Ast. Soc.; Francis Bailey, V. P. R. Ast. Soc.; G. B. Greenough, Pres., Geo. Soc.; W. M. Burton, Lieut.-Col. B. M.; G. Stacey, Tower; Gould, Dowie, & Co., Barge-ys., Ruck, Son, & Fenwick, 19, St. Dunstan's Hill; Brougham, Grafton-st.; Chalmers, Guthrie, & Co., Idol lane, Tower-st.; Heath, Furze, & Co., 31, Old Jewry; Geddes, M. Simpson, Webster, Simpson & Scott, Tower-st.; Kembles & Trower, Mincing-lane; Quarles, Harris & Sons, 9, Billiter-sq.; N. & H. Mayo, 17, Mincing-lane; T. Saunders, 1, Queen-st.-pl.; C. W. Paasley, Col. R. Engineers; Phipps Hornby, Capt. Supdt., Woolwich Dk.-yd.; F. Beaufort, Hydrogr., Admty, Bird Allen, Com. H.M.S. Soudan, London; J. Walker, Pres. Inst. Civil Engineers; R. E. Brandreth, Capt. R. Engineers; H. Bellenden Aer, Linc.-inn, Barrister; R. L. Murchison, late Pres. Geo. Soc.; G. S. Knight, Dep. Lieut. of Bucks; C. Brodrick; F. Bullock, Capt. R.N.; W. H. Connolly, Com. R.M. Woolwich; Bloomfield, Lieut. Gen. Com. at Woolwich; H. D. Ross, Col. W. C. Gen. R. Artillery; R. Porrett, Tower; H. D. Trotter, Capt. H.M.S. V. Albert; J. Washington, Capt. R.N.; Trueman & Cook, Mincing-lane; Thompson, Hankey & Co., do.; A. Stewart & Westmoreland, Winchester House, Broad-st.; F. H. Mitchell, Hammond's-ct., Mincing-lane; H. Duffell, do. J. Wild & Sons, Martin's-lane; E. Norwich, Pres. Linn. Soc.